

**Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Regular Business Meeting
November 19th, 2019**

Present for the meeting were Chairman Glass, Vice-Chairman Traylor, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Heiney, Commissioner Thrash, County Administrator Townsend, County Clerk Davidson, and County Attorney Mayfield.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Everyone said the pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by Britt Lifsey a member of the Barnesville-Lamar County Library board.

III. Agenda Approval

Vice-Chairman Traylor made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes Approval

Commissioner Horton made a motion to approve the following five sets of minutes with a correction to the October 10th, 2019 Workshop minutes. The word ton should have been tone. Commissioner Thrash seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- i. Workshop October 10th, 2019
- ii. Regular Business Meeting October 15th, 2019
- iii. Budget Workshop Meeting October 30th, 2019
- iv. Budget Workshop Meeting October 31st, 2019
- v. Budget Workshop Meeting November 1st, 2019

V. Board Appointment-Tax Assessor Board -Resignation of Tammy Cannon

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the re-appointment of six members to the Library Board of Trustees. The members are as follows: Diane Harvey, Octavia Jackson, Linda Oliver, Lisa Tuttle, Tim Turner. Pam Bryan will replace Mary Jane Blalock who is retiring with 49 ½ years of service. The term is for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2021. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Second Reading Ordinance 2019-14 Occupation Tax

Vice-Chairman Traylor made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2019-14 Occupation Tax. Commissioner Heiney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Second Reading Ordinance 2019-15-Peddlers Transient Selling

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2019-14 Occupation Tax with one change; Section 2-12-61(b) Licenses issued for Transient selling under this article shall be issued for on a yearly basis but must not exceed more than 1 day per quarter. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Set fee for Transient Permits and Peddlers Permits

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to set the Transient and Peddlers permit application fee to \$25.00. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Resolution 2019-14 Budget Amendment

Commissioner Heiney made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-14 Budget Amendment. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Bid for Lamar County Audit

County Administrator Townsend presented three bids to the Lamar County Board of Commissioners for a new auditor. There were three bids submitted: Mauldin and Jenkins for a total cost of \$27,800.00 Clifton, Lipford, Hardison and Parker, Inc for a total cost of \$22,805.00 and Bates, Carter & Company, LLP for a total cost of \$57,000.00. County Administrator Townsend stated that the staff recommendation is for Mauldin & Jenkins due to their quarterly Continuing Education which could amount to approximately \$3,000.00 of annual savings per person and the County's approximate savings could be \$9,000.00. The total cost per year could be \$18,800.00 with all of the savings. Commissioner Thrash made a motion to approve the bid from Mauldin and Jenkins for a cost of \$27,800.00 and Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Sales Tax Vendor List

Commissioner Thrash made a motion that County Administrator Townsend contact the Georgia Department of Revenue and retrieve the list of vendors relating to confidential information secured in the administration of taxes. Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. Sudduth Road Report

County Administrator Townsend presented pictures and details regarding the paving of Suddeth Road. The road is currently 20 ft across from ditch to ditch and only 12 ft. of driving surface. The County needs an additional 40 ft. of right of way to be able to pave the road. The maintenance cost for 2018 was \$2,467.38 and \$16,011.64 in 2019. The repair and paving cost are approximately \$255,138.06.

XIII. Administrator's Report

County Administrator Townend reported that the revenues were above the expenditures for the month of October. He stated that the projection for October was to collect around a million dollars but only \$400,000.00 was received. He explained that 3.5 million dollars had already been received in November and he had budgeted 2.4 million dollars to be collected in November. Chairman Glass explained that the Tax Commissioner provides a check to the County on a two-week basis. County Administrator Townsend said that the forecast for the October Tax Collections was a timing issue.

XIV. Public Comments

Walton Pearce of 198 Pleasant Road Griffin Georgia addressed the board regarding the condition of the roads in Lamar County and primarily the ones that have no striping and other markings on them. He said that the County just built a new school (he said that he knows that the Board of Commissioners is not responsible for this) and a new Health Department. He said that he pays taxes but he doesn't have kids in school. He said that he doesn't use the jail, the Health Department, the Senior Center, or the dog pound but he does travel the roads every day. He said that he knew of someone that was a State employee that went to a meeting and one of the representatives at the meeting was from a State Agency. He said that representative said that the vast majority of serious accidents and fatalities happened on County roads. Mr. Pearce stated that he is very concerned about people driving on unfamiliar roads, or when it rains, and the fact that there are no lines on the roads. He requested that the board find money somewhere to correct this because good striping needs to be done. Chairman Glass explained that the board takes advice from the Public Works Director regarding striping. County Administrator Townsend said that there were 13 roads chosen to be on the priority list and 6 of those roads were selected for the 2020 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG). County Administrator Townsend stated that it cost approximately \$115,000.00 to stripe one mile of roadway. Chairman Glass reported that there are about 356 miles of paved roads in Lamar County. Mr. Pearce said that it is just as important to be able to get to the facilities as it is to be there and if you can't get there, there is no reason to have these facilities. Mr. Pearce said that there are three simple words. Why Not Now?

Chairman Glass explained that the contractors work schedule is based on the weather and they generally work from Saint Patrick's Day to Labor Day. He said that you can't pave or strip if the weather is too cold or too wet. Chairman Glass explained about the LMIG funds. He said that the funds are allocated from the State and are based on fuel taxes. He said that 10 percent of this comes back to the local counties and is based on population and the number of roads miles. There is a 20 to 30 percent match for local funds. Chairman Glass stated that Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds are also used.

Mr. Pearce stated that the water puddles up on the side of the road because of the grass that is built up on the shoulders. He requested that the Public Works Department run a motor grader to keep the shoulders scraped down. Commissioner Thrash explained that there is a minimum of 2 ft. on the right of way and if the shoulder is level there is no way to scrape the shoulder on the roads. Chairman Glass stated that the Public Works Department has scraped the

shoulders of the road and people complain that dirt is being thrown on the roads or into their yards and then that takes time and money to clean up.

Jackie Hardaway of 300 McCollum Road addressed the board to say thank you to them for the work that the Public Works Department had done recently on his road. Mr. Hardaway stated that he really appreciated the work that was done and wanted to publicly thank the Board of Commissioners.

XV. Round Table

Commissioner Horton stated that he appreciated everyone coming out and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He said that everyone should be thankful for the blessings that are taken for granted.

Commissioner Heiney said that the road striping was one of his hot spots. He said that the Board of Commissioners are focused on this issue with the striping of the roads and there is a program in place where they prioritize these roads that need to be paved and striped. Commissioner Heiney also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice-Chairman Traylor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels. He said that he hoped everyone that is traveling would buy fuel in Lamar County so that the County could reap the benefits of the tax dollars. Vice-Chairman Traylor stated that to have a citizen such as Mr. Hardaway who came to a couple of meetings and shared his concerns, and then to get a thank you was awesome. Vice-Chairman Traylor said that last month he said that he was thankful for the great group of employees that Lamar County has in place and this month he wanted to say thank you to the great board that Lamar County has in place. He said that the citizens don't know how the board is constantly trying to improve. He said that something new that they did at their last meeting was to implement adding a concerned citizen issue or a road to the agenda, with detailed information, and then respond back to that concern. He said that the goal of the board is to give feedback to the citizens of Lamar County. Vice-Chairman Traylor thanked County Administrator Townsend and County Clerk Davidson for getting the information together regarding Suddeth Road.

Commissioner Thrash wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman Glass thanked everyone for coming and said that he appreciated the feedback. He said that at the meetings the citizens can address the board but they can also call the Administration Office with any issues they have with the roads and a work order can be submitted regarding that issue and it will be sent directly to the Public Works Department. Chairman Glass stated that potholes are a big issue and that the work order system is also used for Animal Control calls. Chairman Glass stated that work orders could also be submitted online on the Lamar County website. The Lamar County website is lamarcountyyga.com.

XVI. Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to adjourn the Regular Business meeting at 8:45 p.m. and Vice-Chairman Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Ryran Traylor, Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton, Commissioner

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____ County Clerk Davidson